

Message Text

SECRET

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-13 DPW-01 AID-20 M-03 PER-05

RSR-01 (ADP)W

----- 109012

O 011210Z AUG 73 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5187

INFO CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 5359

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, MASS, LA

SUBJ: ESTABLISHMENT OF DAO IN VIENTIANE

REF: STATE 150568

1. APPRECIATE RAPID RESPONSE REFTEL. TRANSMITTED
PARA TWO BELOW IS TEXT OF MY LETTER WHICH, UNLESS
OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, I INTEND TO DELIVER TO SOUVANNA
TOMORROW. I ANTICIPATE THAT SOUVANNA WILL WISH TO
CONSIDER THIS EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONFIDENTIAL; BUT
NONETHELESS I HAVE INCORPORATED CERTAIN POINTS IN
THE LETTER WHICH SOUVANNA WOULD BE ABLE TO USE (IF HE
WHISHED) IN EXPLAINING RATIONALE AND MERITS OF PLAN TO
THE LPF CONFRERES, IN NEW PGNU.

2. QUOTE. YOUR HIGHNESS: I HAVE THE HONOR TO
REFER TO OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATION REGARDING THE
PROPOSAL OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH
A DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICER AS PART OF THE UNITED STATES
DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN LAOS AND WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT
TO YOU FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THIS PROPOSAL.

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WE PROPOSE TO ESTABLISH A DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICER

IN THE COURSE OF RESTRUCTURING OUR DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO COMPLY WITH THE SEVERAL AGREEMENTS GOVERNING MILITARY PERSONNEL IN LAOS. ASSIGNED TO THIS SINGLE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE IN VIENTIANE WILL BE ALL AMERICAN PERSONNEL PERFORMING MILITARY AND MILITARY-RELATED FUNCTIONS IN LAOS. THERE WILL, OF COURSE, BE A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF SUCH AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN LAOS FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE.

THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE IN LAOS WILL BE HEADED BY A GENERAL OFFICER AS DEFENSE ATTACHE. HE WILL HAVE A STAFF OF ABOUT THIRTY MILITARY PERSONNEL PLUS A LIMITED NUMBER OF CIVILIANS, THE LATTER TO PERFORM ESSENTIALLY ADMINISTRATIVE AND CLERICAL SUPPORT TASKS. THE DEFENSE ATTACHE AND HIS STAFF WILL PERFORM THE NORMAL REPRESENTATIONAL FUNCTIONS NOW DISCHARGED BY OUR ACCREDITED MILITARY ATTACHES, AND WILL ALSO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO LAOS. THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE WILL, OF COURSE, BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR DIPLOMATIC MISSION AND WILL BE UNDER THE DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION OF THE CHIEF OF THE DIPLOMATIC MISSION.

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONFIRMATION THAT THE ARRANGEMENT DESCRIBED ABOVE IS AGREEABLE TO YOU.

PLEASE ACCEPT, YOUR HIGHNESS, THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE.
DEAN

SECRET

NNN

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